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PATENT
5732-00300/MA-069

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Verma et al.

§ Group Art Unit: 2827
§ Examiner: Luan C. Thai

Serial No. 10/080,036

§ Atty. Dkt. No. 5732-00300

Filed: February 19, 2002

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§ September 29, 2003
§ Date

§ Kevin L. Daffer

AMENDMENT; RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 1, 2003

Box Non-Fee Amendment

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of July 1, 2003, to further highlight reasons why the captioned application is in condition for allowance. The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Thai for the courtesies extended during an interview of September 29, 2003. In that interview, the patentability of the pending independent claims 1 and 9 was discussed in light of the Office Action §103(a) rejection. The interview dealt primarily with applicants traversal of the §103(a) rejection since the Office Action failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Nowhere in either of the cited references is there any suggestion or motivation for the hypothetical combination proposed in the Office Action. MPEP 2143.01. However, to expedite prosecution of this case, applicants request the following amendments to place this case in condition for early allowance:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.